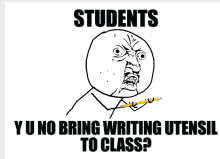


# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

"That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely or isolated from anyone. You belong." ~ F. Scott Fitzgerald

## Class Rules

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn EVERYDAY.  
#NoFreeDays  
#BringYoStuff



2. Respect the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself. #BeNice #BeNeat



3. Be responsible for your own learning. #nocheating #workhard



4. Satchels, victuals, and libations are forbidden!  
#NoFood #OnlyWater #NoGum #NoBookbags



5. Keep ALL personal electronics TURNED OFF and out of sight. #NoPhones #NotEvenInTheHallway



## Course Description

Welcome to 7th grade English Language Arts! Our focus this school year will be learning and developing our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. The development and mastery of these important literary skills is not only important to achieving success in the Language Arts classroom; it is a critical component of achieving success in other school subjects and attaining a flourishing career as an adult. One's quality of life will greatly depend on how well he or she reads, writes, and communicates with others.



## What do I get if I follow class rules?

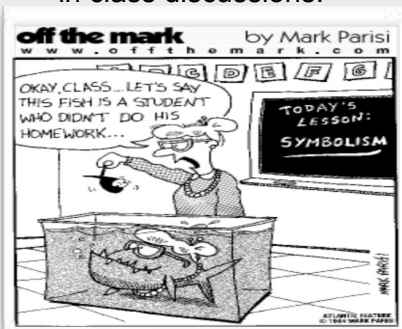
Your appropriate behavior in class assures everyone of an environment conducive to learning. I expect each of my students to follow my class rules and procedures. However, students who go "above and beyond" my expectations will earn tickets which can be used on designated class days to purchase prizes such as small class goodies, brag calls, homework passes, and bathroom passes.

## What are the consequences if I don't follow class rules?

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Warning - Name on board** (I remind students of the rules/procedures.) \*Note: If I have a student write his or her name on my board for any reason, he or she is expected to stand, make eye contact with me, and respond politely with "Yes, Ma'am." If this is the case, this incident stays as a first warning, and the student may erase his/her name at the end of class if no further infractions occur. If, however, the student is huffy, disruptive, or disrespectful when asked to sign the board, the warning automatically becomes a checkmark with break detention.
2. **Checkmark beside name:** Break Detention/Possible Parent Notification/Possible Seat Change
3. **2 Checkmarks** - Seat Change, Parent Notification, 2 days break detention, and/or Silent Lunch.
4. **3 Checkmarks** - Office Referral: Students will be issued an office referral for a fourth offense. (If I have to address a single student's behavior 4 times in one class period, that is inhibiting my ability to teach my other students.)

## My Expectations:

1. All RMS rules and policies will be observed within the classroom.
2. Students will bring ALL supplies to class everyday.
3. Students are to be in their seat when the tardy bell rings.
4. Students will stand beside their seat during the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Students are to be respectful to EVERYONE in my classroom.
6. Students shall always try their best and participate in class discussions.



## Grade Breakdown

Daily Participation (Classwork, Homework, Notebook Checks, Smaller or "Pop" Quizzes, etc.)	40%
Tests/Presentations/Projects (Tests, Poetry Presentations, Unit or Chapter Quizzes, Projects, Final Essays, etc.)	60%

## Supplies

- (Multiple) #2 Pencils
- Blue, black, and red pens
- Colored pencils
- \$5.00 for DGP's
- Standard index cards (approx. 200)
- One set of four or more highlighters
- One two-inch binder w/loose (college ruled) paper
- One set of five (3-holed) dividers

## Consistency is key!

I try to ensure that my students find my class simultaneously stimulating, challenging, and fun! However, in order to give all of my students their best chance at success, classroom consistency is of the utmost importance.

The consequences outlined on page 1 relate to one class session. However, there are certain infractions that I must address consistently. For example, bringing supplies to class and BEING in class must be made a priority for students. It is understood that everyone forgets sometimes; so students will be provided **3 hall/bathroom passes each nine weeks**. If a student left something in his/her locker, or if he/she have a bathroom emergency, he or she must surrender one pass. Once these passes are gone for the nine weeks, that's it! Students must then report to break detention in order to make up time missed in class. Any unused passes can be exchanged for 5 bonus points at the end of each nine weeks..

*(If your child has a medical condition that requires frequent or unexpected bathroom breaks, please make sure our nurse as well as the front office aware, so that we may have something on file.)*

## How will I check my grade in class?

Class progress reports will be sent home every four and a half weeks. Parents and students are also strongly encouraged to check grades online on a weekly basis to view the current grades in PowerSchool for EVERY class. You may also check results of online assignments on Schoology. (See p. 3)

## What do I do if I am absent?

**Always check Schoology for agendas, handouts, and assignment due dates.** I also post presentations and assignments in Schoology. A student has an extra day to turn in any work **assigned on a day a student was absent**. On the day the student returns to class, **he or she is responsible for obtaining and completing any classwork assigned on the day he or she was absent.** (I provide copies of assignments upon request, and all assignments and instructions are posted in daily folders in my Schoology classroom.) Students have 5 school days to make up work for an **excused** absences. However, if **previously assigned work** (including AR tests, Vocab Tests, and Poetry Presentations) was due on the day of the absence, the work is due (or must be presented) **on the day the student returns**, otherwise it is considered late and will receive 70% credit. (My students always have the option of informing me of an absence ahead of time and completing work or presenting early if they choose.)

## Tic Tac Toe

As students are provided with more than enough opportunities for success, I do not accept assignments for extra credit. However, should students finish any (in class) assignment early, he or she may go to our class "Tic Tac Toe" board and complete any three assignments in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally). Once three of the board's assignments are **complete**, the student may turn it in to me, and I will drop his or her lowest minor grade.



## Let's "plug in" to English class

Houston County Public Schools will continue to utilize the teaching/learning management system called Schoolology in conjunction with PowerSchool. Schoolology allows our classes to connect and complete assignments both at school and from home. Houston County Schools has implemented Schoolology in grades K-12. The teachers at Rehobeth Middle School are currently at different levels of use with Schoolology, developing and adjusting their curriculum to be easily accessible online to students and parents.

With Schoolology, students are able to engage in a variety of activities that include, but are not limited to:

- accessing, retrieving, and submitting homework assignments
- calendar access to homework assignments and upcoming projects and due dates
- accessing links, articles or videos relating to their class
- participating in interactive discussions
- receiving announcements and feedback on assignments
- taking quizzes/tests
- writing academic blogs

**Please remember that Houston County Schools has also moved away from INow, and is now utilizing a system called PowerSchool. Please note that Schoolology is different than your PowerSchool ParentPortal.** Currently, we have been advised that grades, attendance, report cards, etc... will be recorded in Powerschool. Schoolology is designed to offer more detailed information about assignments and projects, while also providing greater access to learning materials and serving as a digital extension of the classroom. (Think of Schoolology as a digital classroom and PowerSchool as your Parent Portal.) **Please note that final student grades and class averages will be posted in PowerSchool. The Schoolology gradebook reflects ONLY the grades of digital assignments and/or make-up or digital assignments and should NOT be misinterpreted as a student's average for any given class!** *(I generally like to keep my grades updated in both platforms, but if there is ever a doubt, always take the grade posted in PowerSchool as final.)*

All students are assigned login credentials to access their ClassLink account, which contains all of their school programs, apps, and resources (including Schoolology). Students can (and are encouraged to) access Schoolology, Savvas, AR, and any other platforms that contain their school assignments from home as needed. Students' activity will be monitored by the teachers to help ensure a safe, secure, and controlled environment; so please emphasize the necessity of good digital citizenship to your student(s).

I know that this is overwhelming and a myriad of information. Please know that I will work tirelessly to communicate any changes with you as quickly and efficiently as possible. I ask only that you grant me a bit of grace and patience as we all navigate these new systems and challenges together. We deeply appreciate your involvement in your child's education, and we encourage you to **sign up for a parent account**. (Each student has a unique parent access code that allows parents to see their child's Schoolology content, in each of your child's classes. One code is used for ALL classes in which your child is enrolled.) You may go online to register for your parent account at any time. For your convenience, there are many free YouTube video tutorials that can aid you in almost any problem you may encounter with Schoolology.

I look forward to working and interacting with you and your child this school year!

[riley.alissa@hcboe.us](mailto:riley.alissa@hcboe.us)

(334) 677-5153



**PLEASE READ THE COURSE INFORMATION, SIGN, AND  
RETURN ONLY THIS SHEET TO MRS. RILEY.**

**Students:**

Please sign below to signify that you have read the course sheet for Mrs. Riley's class, will keep it in your folder, and will be responsible for the information throughout the year, and **will check Schoology at least twice per day at school or at home.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

**Parents/Guardians:**

Check all the statements that apply to how you would like to communicate with Mrs. Riley about your student's progress. I will, of course, call for major concerns or accomplishments, but with approximately 130 students, I like to know how you'd prefer to communicate.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We have internet access at home, so we will check PowerSchool and Schoology at least twice per week to check on my/our student's progress. I/We will contact Mrs. Riley about any concerns we have.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We plan to email or schedule a meeting with Mrs. Riley monthly for an update or as needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We do not have internet access at home, but I/we would like to have regular contact with Mrs. Riley. I/we will call for an update on a regular basis.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

Please sign below to indicate that you have read the course sheet for Mrs. Riley's class and that you will help your student be accountable for the information. If you have questions about the course or your student's work, please do not hesitate to contact me; **email is the best way to reach me quickly.** (My email address is printed on the bottom of this sheet.) **\*Please fill in the requested contact information below COMPLETELY. Your current and accurate contact information is ESSENTIAL in order for your child's teachers to keep you informed in any unforeseen circumstances.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian **printed** name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian **e-mail**  
(please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian **daytime phone number**

**Parents and guardians, please CIRCLE the best way for me to contact you:**

**E-mail**

**Phone**